

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared this Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to address the application from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), (A.03-12-039) for a Permit to Construct (PTC) approximately 2.5 miles of underground 115 kilo-volt (kV) single circuit cable between the Potrero and Hunters Point Switchyards. The intent of the proposed project, which PG&E proposed to begin construction activities on in 2005, is to increase the reliability of the electric transmission system service throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. This Final MND considered environmental impacts that would occur from the potential development and operation of the cable line and associated project components as proposed by PG&E. The analysis of this Final MND concluded that any environmental impacts associated with PG&E's proposed project can be mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of mitigation measures identified in this document.

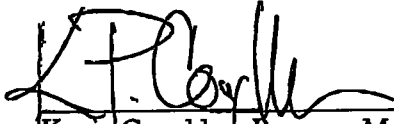
The CPUC completed a Draft MND for the PG&E Hunters to Potrero Cable Project (proposed project). The CPUC filed a Notice of Completion (NOC) with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearing House, published a Notice of Availability (NOA) and released the Draft MND for a 30-day public review period on October 15, 2004. The Draft MND was distributed to a group of agency representatives and individuals as outlined in Table 3-1. Additionally, a Public Notice was published in the three general circulation newspapers announcing the availability of the document for public review in compliance with CEQA. The public review period and comment period on the Draft MND ended on November 15, 2004. Copies of all written comments received on the Draft MND are contained in this report.

As the lead CEQA agency, the CPUC prepared a response to all written comments received during the public review period for the Draft MND. The response to comments and text changes, together with the Draft MND, constitutes the Final MND upon certification by the CPUC as complete and adequate pursuant to CEQA.

Findings

Therefore, based on the analysis conducted in the Final MND, the CPUC has found, on the basis of the whole record before it (including the initial study and public comments received), that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have any significant unmitigable environmental impacts related to either construction activities or operations of the proposed project. The majority of the proposed project impacts result from construction activities. These impacts are temporary and can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with mitigation

measures identified in this Final MND. An operational impact was also identified as a potential impact to public safety and operations of the proposed project. This operational impact was also determined mitigable; no significant unavoidable operational or temporary impacts would result. Accordingly, mitigation proposed as part of the proposed project, as well as measures identified in the Final MND, would avoid or reduce all of the impacts to a less-than-significant level.


Kevin Coughlan, Program Manager
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission


Date